

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 191253Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4738

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR,VS

SUBJECT: PODGORNYY ON VIETNAM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MOSCOW 15761

1. SUMMARY: PODGORNYY'S DEC. 18 BANQUET SPEECH FOR NLF CHIEF NGUYEN HUU THO CONTAINS DIRECT CRITICISM OF U.S. ROLE IN VIETNAM, UNUSUAL FOR A SOVIET LEADER SINCE SIGNING OF PARIS AGREEMENT. ON OTHER HAND, PODGORNYY BY IMPLICATION CONFERS HIS BLESSING ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LE DUC THO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE NOTED RECENTLY IN SOVIET PRESS (REFTEL), PODGORNYY TWICE INCLUDES THE U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN HIS CONDEMNATION OF VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT IN

SVN. AS PODGORNYY TELLS IT, THE CHIEF CULPRIT IS GVN,
"WITH THE DE FACTO SUPPORT OF THE USA." TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,
THIS IS MOST DIRECT CRITICISM OF U.S. ROLE BY A SOVIET
LEADER SINCE PARIS AGREEMENTS SIGNED.

3. PODGORNYY PRAISES PARIS AGREEMENT, REITERATING SOVIET
VIEW THAT IT OPENS NEW ERA IN VIETNAM. HE DECLARES THAT
RECENT MILITARY CLASHES HAVE LED TO DANGEROUS EXACERBATION
OF SITUATION IN SVN, BUT IN CLEAR BOW TO LE DUC
THO'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, PODGORNYY
VOICES HOPE THAT "EFFORTS BEING MADE AT PRESENT STAGE
TOWARD WEAKENING TENSION IN VIETNAM WILL BIELD
POSITIVE RESULTS."

4. IN CONTRAST, NGUYEN HUU THO DELIVERS HARSH INDICT-
MENT OF U.S. AS THE MAIN SABOTEUR OF PARIS AGREEMENTS
AND IGNORES LE DUC THO'S MISSION. HE REPEATS ALLEGATION
THAT 24,000 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE IN SVN
(A POINT NOT FOUND IN PODGORNYY'S SPEECH). HIS CLAIM
THAT NLF IS ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE OF SVN
IS NOT RECIPROCATED BY PODGORNYY.

5. MIDDLE EAST ASPECTS OF PODGORNYY SPEECH BEING
REPORTED SEPTEL.
SOMMERLATTE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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